

## ABSTRACT

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2 Compositions for increasing the thermal and pressure stability of well fluids  
3 viscosified using viscoelastic surfactants, the compositions including an effective amount  
4 of an oligomeric or polymeric compound that has a thermally stable backbone structure  
5 and at least one pendent viscoelastic surfactant functional group. Preferred compositions  
6 for increasing the stability of well fluids viscosified using monomeric viscoelastic  
7 surfactants include an effective amount of an oligomeric or polymeric compound that has  
8 a thermally stable backbone structure and a multiplicity of pendent viscoelastic surfactant  
9 functional groups attached to said backbone structure through relatively long  
10 hydrocarbon chains, 1 to 18 carbons in length.